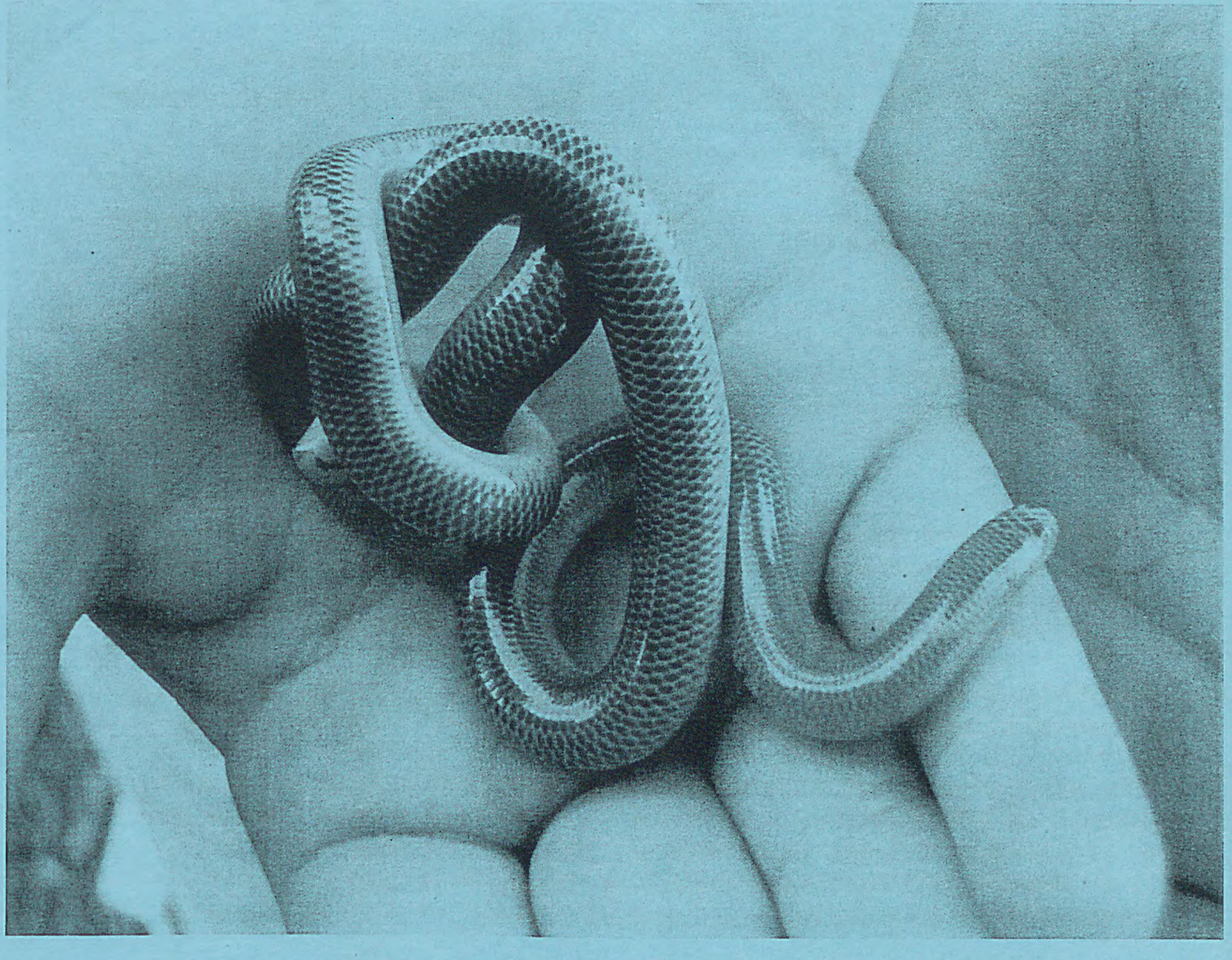
WHIRRAKEE

October 2008 Vol. 29 No. 8

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2008 - 2009

President	Glenise Moors	54396254
Senior Vice President	Richard Goonan	0423 418815
Junior Vice President	Matthew Comer	0409 162627
Secretary	Anne Bridley	5449 3479
Minute Secretary	Jan Orr	5443 5668
Treasurer	Rob Moors	54396254
Membership Officer	Anne Bridley	5449 3479
Excursion organiser	Richard Goonan	0423 418815
Syllabus organiser	Ben Goonan	
Librarian	Diana Collier (an assistant is still required)	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer	0409 162 627
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis (assisted by Rob Moors)	0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Bob Ruddick, Ben Goonan, Jaydon Hoskin, Liz Graham, Diana Collier. *More committee members are urgently sought, see page 4.*

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 29, No. 8, October 2008
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Short notices		3
News for the library	Diana Collier	3
Appeal for more committee members	Anne Bridley	4
Annual General Meeting, president's address	Sabine Wilkens	4
Phantastic Pitcher Plants	Sabine Wilkens	4
Snakes of the Bendigo District Part 1: Introduction Part 2: Blind Snakes	Darren Green	6
BFNC 2007/2008Treasurer's Report	Rob Moors	8

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgement should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
We have had the Annual General Meeting and now, the Club will have another year full of activity, if the last year was anything to go by. Glenise Moors gave the president's report and will submit a written report soon, but it is always amazing what is achieved in the one year. However, what is a bit sad, is that most of the work is always done by the same people. On page 4 there is an appeal for more committee members. Joining the committee would be a great way to get involved without too much time commitment, even just to get to know some of the members and how the club operates. If you are vaguely thinking about giving some time to this, you will be very welcome. At the end of her report, however, Glenise came out with the biggest surprise of all: the award of the Club's life membership to the Whirrakee editor! This was so totally unexpected, that I probably mumbled something silly in response. If space will permit it in the next edition (it didn't in this one), I will write a fitting response to this great Honour. Just a very big thank you for the moment!

Front Page Illustration – Photographer: Darren Green
This photograph shows a species of *Ramphotyphlops*, the blind snakes. There are only three species of blind snake around Bendigo. With this, we continue the contribution by Darren Green on the reptiles of Bendigo. Unfortunately, there are not nearly as many snakes as there are lizards, so this part will be much shorter (see page 6).

Short notices

Sneak preview of General Meeting in October, Speaker: Paul Foley
Topic: Tour of the Universe.

In the 50 years since the first artificial satellite was launched, the boundaries of our knowledge have been pushed back almost to the edge of the universe. Four space probes have been sent into interstellar space, and a fifth is on its way. It's a strange thought that these robots will still be there, drifting among the stars, not merely when their builders are dead. They will outlive the Earth itself. Over 400 humans have now travelled into space, and 12 have walked on the Moon. We have landed probes on Venus, Mars, the asteroid Eros, and Titan, the giant moon of Saturn. We've witnessed the afterglow of creation itself.

A brief presentation and talk will be given at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 October, at the Senior Citizens Centre in Old High Street, Golden Square, to provide an overview of some of the discoveries and achievements of our first 50 years in space.

More rescuers and telephone operators are needed for the Wildlife Rescue & Information Network

After 11 years of operation, WRIN has found that its workload has increased to the point that more rescuers and telephone operators are needed.

Training will be provided by experienced WRIN members, and any time that can be given will be most appreciated.

If you feel that you can help, the Rescue phone no is 0419 356433
or email secretary@wrin.asn.au

North Central CMA 2008/2009
Second Generation Landcare Grants

Applications close Friday 17 October
Anne Bridley has or copy of the guidelines or contact Clare Millen at NCCMA on 5440 1870 or at www.nccma.vic.gov.au

News from the Library by Diana Collier

Missing bird calls

Many members are not aware that the book-room-cum- library keeps audiovisual media as well as the printed variety.

There are cassettes of Bird Calls, which are of course very much used by the Birdos, but rarely by others. Recently, there was an enquiry for calls of Choughs, which was a nice surprise (for me), as it is good to know of the wish for, and potential use of such material. BUT when I was dealing with this, I also checked for, and could not find, the CD that has always been used as background music for Spring in the Bendigo Bush, when we had an exhibition of native plants etc at the BFNC rooms. DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE THE C.D. IS, PLEASE?

Missing librarian's assistant

Is there anyone who would be willing to help me, say once a month to list some of the material in the library? There is a heap of stuff , that I have placed together in pamphlet boxes under broad headings, such as FUNGI, PLANTS, TREES, WEEDS and much more. All are pamphlets, too flimsy or too small to be placed separately on shelves, often they are only articles reprinted as separates of perhaps 10 pages, but important and informative. The work is often tedious, but is an excellent way to get to know the content and scope of the library.

There is an available accessible catalogue of the periodical material held and being received by BFNC. I want to have a similar [separate, holdable] catalogue of the books, of Authors and Titles, and probably Subjects. Not hard, as there is an Accessions record, but time-consuming. IS THERE ENOUGH INTEREST?

New Addition

A beautiful new book by Bruce Fuhrer about Australian Fungi has just been added to the library and is available for borrowing.

Please contact Diana Collier on 5443 0137 if you have some time to spare of know where the missing CD is.

More Committee members needed

by Anne Bridley, BFNC secretary

At last night's committee meeting, we didn't have a quorum, so we were unable to have a meeting. Numbers often drop off in winter due to members being away. We need another couple of members so that any essential club business can be done. Members who have served for many years rightly feel that they have done their bit. So we now have an opportunity for younger or newer members to have their say in this vital aspect of running our club.
Contact Anne Bridley (5449 3479) or Glenise Moors (54396254) for more information.

Annual General Meeting 2008

President's Address
Glenise began her presentation by showing large photos of the bush 'the way it was'. There were magnificent views from about 1970 of the bush along Barnadown Road with beautiful displays of *Callitrix*, *Prostanthera*, Daphne Heath and Showy Parrot Peas. Another photo showed a superb wildflower garden near the Old Tom Mine. This then lead members to reminisce about famous 'patches' like the 'Boronia patch', the 'Westringia patch' and the past glorious displays of Bendigo wax.
But not all is gloomy, as Jane Cleary reported on the positive effects of fencing to preserve some of the patches. This, in turn, caused the question...are we field nats doing enough?
Almost invariably the debate about fire gets re-ignited in this context and that occasion was no exception.
Glenise stood back during most of this discussion and, afterwards, confessed that it had been her intention all along, not to deliver a complete presentation, but to get us talking instead. It worked beautifully.

The annual president's report will appear in the next *Whirrakee* and the treasurer's report is on page 8.

Phantastic Pitcher Plants

Author: Sabine Wilkens

This is a summary of a talk given by Larry Mellichamp, professor of Botany from the University of North Carolina and director of Charlotte Botanical Gardens.

Larry Mellichamp is a world expert on *Sarracenia*, a genus of insectivorous plants known as pitcher plants. He has studied the taxonomy, evolution and conservation of this very interesting group of plants for 40 years, and he was visiting Bendigo on his way to an international symposium in Sydney on carnivorous plants.

Pitcher plants only occur in North America, with the majority being found in the southern part of the continent. However, some occur right across Northern America including Canada. However, wherever they grow, they grow in wet places and studying this group of plants definitely requires a set of waders, gum boots, a positive attitude to mosquitoes, fire ants, snakes and other swamp creatures, as well as an ability to be of good cheer in 110% humidity.

The first known published drawing and description of a pitcher plant is from Holland and is dated 1576. The next time the plant appeared in the literature was around 1650. Both of the drawings accompanying these descriptions however, are not very pitcher plant-like. In 1731, a magnificent painting of pitcher plants was executed by Mark Catersby, an English botanist who visited America. It was then thought that pitcher plants were 'designed' to be a haven for frogs. In fact, we were shown a slide of one of Larry's pitcher plants with a frog sitting very snugly inside a pitcher looking out, but this frog might have had an ulterior motif and was not just seeking shelter from the sun. In 1865, Charles Darwin published a book on insectivorous plants, but left out pitcher plants altogether. However, in the second edition of the book, he included a foot note stating that

Drs Mellichamp and Caby believe that *Sarracenia* and *Darlingtonia* should be added and Darwin seemed to agree, although somewhat reluctantly.
Amazingly, this Dr Mellichamp was a relative of our speaker, so pitcher plants are in his bloodline!

Sarracenia has exquisite flowers, and until this night, I had never seen a flower construction like this. Most hang downwards with their style vastly extended like an upside down umbrella. The anthers are thus above this umbrella structure and when they drop their pollen, it accumulates on the concave side of the umbrella and all manner of insects come and feast on the pollen.
But generally, life is dangerous around these plants. Early in the season, when insects come to visit the flowers, some other (predatory) insects are there waiting for them. Later in the season, other visitor come to look for the accumulating dead bodies and later on again, other animals come to look for (the living) carrion eaters. Larry showed a fantastic photo of a preying mantis sitting alongside the pitcher. The amazing thing was that the mantis had exactly the same complex and mottled colour scheme as the pitcher.

One of Larry's particular interest is the hybridisation of these plants. They hybridise readily and thus represent a nightmare to taxonomists, trying to sort out the relationships and evolutionary history of these species. Why is it that they hybridise so freely, when most other plants have evolved barriers to keep the species intact? Perhaps this has something to do with the special environment in which these plants grow.

Larry also showed us some other beautiful wildflowers but this southern part of America seems to be an epicentre for carnivorous plants. The famous Venus Fly Trap only occurs naturally in a very small geographic area (60 miles diameter) in South-Eastern Carolina. We saw a series of photos, which showed us how it works. A wasp was investigating the trap (looking for nectar?) and as soon as the victim touched one or two of the sensitive hairs on the inside of the modified leaves, the trap snaps shut (try say those last four words quickly ten times in a row…).

Some pitcher plants specialise on ants. The hood that covers the pitcher is so low in *Sarracenia minor*, that virtually only ants are admitted. But apparently they take a while to die in the pitcher. Larry told us that when he transported one of these plants in his car, it tipped over and millions of ants escaped and, over the next few days, made a nest in his car.

One thing Larry was passionate about was fire. These plants do need fire and he was very concerned about management changes that end up reducing fire frequency. He might have wondered why the response to this from the attendees was only luke warm. How does this environment burn when the ground is wet all the time? Apparently the time for fires is when all the tops of plants have died and dried. A fire will then go through the tops of the vegetation but will not harm the buried tubers another underground structures.

For the second half of his talk, Larry went though the species of *Sarracenia* and showed their colour varieties and the hybrids that these species form. Very often a hybrid looks like a complete intermediate between its parents, so wonderful mixtures of colour, shape and venation can be attempted and this is also a hobby and passion of Larry

One reason why he is interested in making hybrids, is to attract people to them, so they grow these in their gardens rather than going out and taking plants from the wild. Some of the wild species are very rare, and it is imperative to sort out their taxonomic status while they still exist, or, at least, keep them in existence, until their origins and relationships can be determined by technical means, not available at present.

Some species form definite clusters and are obviously closely related. Is it important to determine if all these different looking plants are actual species in themselves or 'just'

subspecies and varieties of the one big complex species. For one, Larry believes that governments are more interested in saving endangered 'whole' species rather than subspecies, varieties or variants.

One slightly crazy idea Larry Mellichamp is fantasizing about is to set aside a kind of 'Jurassic park' for *Sarracenia* species. A place where they can remain protected, where mutant forms can show up, where people cannot clear, alter the fire regime or drain the land – a kind of 'Pitfall Paradise'.
Larry finished his most passionate talk with the statement 'who needs pandas?', and suggested to change the emblem of endangered species to a pitcher plant instead. He had nearly all of us convinced.

The Snakes of the Bendigo District

by Darren Green

Part 1: Introduction

Snakes are an essential part of our environment. While they often predate upon and help keep rodent populations down, snakes, in turn, are predated upon by animals such as kookaburras and other birds of prey, making them a vital link in the food chain. Their venoms are a modified saliva made up of a complex mixture of proteins and enzymes. Future venom research is likely to uncover some pharmaceutical advantages found hidden in the proteins and enzymes. Some, for example, may be beneficial in neuro-muscular blocking components in anaesthetics or treating tetanus, anticoagulants at blood banks or useful in cancer research.

Inaccurate stories are often told about snakes, and with each telling the tale becomes slightly exaggerated. Typically, a 4 foot snake becomes a 6 footer and, as a result of ignorance, we have snakes in plague proportions during the months of spring. Snake stories are often glamorised, with snake-bite stories making front page news. The truth is that snakes are shy and secretive animals that will try to escape from any threats or potential threats. If cornered, provoked or accidentally stood on, the snake as a last resort may bite in defence before endeavouring to escape.

While many fallacies and myths are told about snakes, we must never loose sight of the fact that certain snakes are dangerous and some bites may result in death. For this reason all snakes should be treated with respect and left alone, or only handled by experienced and trained people such as those from the Department of Conservation and Environment or a licensed wildlife removalist. While antivenoms have improved over the years and are now readily available at hospitals, the first vital step to managing a snake bite victim is still basic First Aid.

If you are confronted by a snake, do not panic, think clearly and move away from the snake. Usually the snake would have avoided you prior to this, so it may be the case that the snake has not seen you. Observing snakes is certainly fascinating, but don't get too close or touch. Quite often the people who attempt to kill the snakes are the ones who get bitten. It is perhaps a good idea to have another look at the snake and check that to see if it is really a snake and not a lizard, you may sleep better at night, knowing it was only a lizard. Snakes do not have legs, ear openings, eyelids, or a broad fleshy tongue, like many lizards have.

If confronting a snake is not your idea of fun, then you should make an effort to deter snakes from your yard. This can be done by cleaning away any hiding places such as pieces of tin, piles of wood or any rubbish that is lying around, it is also a good idea to cut any grass low to reduce cover. Another preventative measure is to clean up bird seed and other foods that may attract mice. This forces the snake to look elsewhere for its prey. Keeping lizards in your yard will not keep snakes away, as lizards are a known food item, but they will certainly reduce the amount of available food for snakes. Also,

there is no such thing as a snake repellent that really works.

The senseless killing of our native wildlife should not be considered an option since the eradication of another species of animal only creates an unbalanced ecosystem. By using some of the guideline presented above, we can learn to understand snakes and begin to live with them, after all, we have moved into their territory.

Part 2: Blind Snakes ***Typhlopidae***

Blind Snakes belong to a group of worm-like, burrowing reptiles, with smooth shiny scales. On close inspection, remnant eyes are visible and a forked tongue flicks from the mouth. Identification is often difficult, as most appear similar. Combined with their tiny size and unrelenting struggling when handled, keying out becomes an achievement. You will need to reference Cogger (2000) or Coventry & Robertson (1991) to key out and identify this species. A general description is given below. Blind snakes live in the burrows of termites and ants, on which they feed. Their round sectioned body and smooth scales make ant bites remote. Blind snakes may be found under rocks or logs, or excavated from the ground, and occasionally they are seen at night in warm weather, especially after rain. If handled roughly, these snakes will emit an offensive odour, otherwise they are non-venomous and completely harmless to humans. It is believed that land clearing and cats have a devastating impact on their population.

burrowing *Ramphotyphlops* sp.

Ramphotyphlops sp.

Peter's Blind Snake
Ramphotyphlops bituberculatus

Dark purplish-brown to almost black, fading to whitish on lower flanks and ventral surfaces. Snout strongly trilobed from above, and slightly angular in profile. It may grow to 450mm, but is more common around 380mm. It has 22 mid-body scale rows. This snake is uncommon, with records from Inglewood and Raywood.

Gray's Blind Snake
Ramphotyphlops nigrescens

Purplish pink-brown to black above, cream or pink below, with some specimens having a dark patch on either side of the vent. It grows to around 550mm and has 22 mid-body scale rows. These snakes are uncommon, with records from Sedgewick, One Tree Hill, Sutton Grange, Eppalock and Chewton. Five to 20 well developed eggs are laid in mid to late summer.

Woodland Blind Snake
Ramphotyphlops proximus

Rich dark brown above which fades to a cream-white below, with some specimens having a dark patch on either side of the vent. It can grow to around 750mm and has 22 mid-body scale rows. This snake is recorded from Inglewood, Marong, Whipstick, Axedale, Huntly and Lake Eppalock. Up to 34 well developed eggs are laid in summer.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31st July 2008

General Account - Investment Account

Receipts		Expenditure		
Membership	3051.00	Whirrakee Printing		1405.50
Subscriptions	64.00	Whirrakee Postage		547.38
Donations	150.00	Memberships		155.00
Interest	822.13	Public Liability Ins.		300.00
B/Ironbark CD	50.00	Secretarial Exp.		14.50
Miscellaneous		Library Exp.		37.90
Transfer from other A/cs	1178.00	Bus Hire		204.64
		Miscellaneous		
		Audit	230.00	
		Consumer Affairs	38.62	
		PO Box Keys	12.00	
		Fieldwork	302.88	
		PO Box Rental	'70.00	
		Toilet Supplies	89.98	
		Cleaning	1098.00	1841.48
				4506.40
		Surplus		808.73
	$ 5315.13			$ 5315.13

Bank Balance at 1st August 2007		Bank Balance at 31st July 2008	
Cheque A/c	4675.77	Cheque A/c	5484.50
Term Deposit CBA	10072.95	Term Deposit CBA	10072.95
Surplus	808.73		
	$ 15557.45		$ 15557.45

I have examined the documents and records supporting the above statements of receipts and expenditure and I am able to report that in my opinion the statement of receipts and expenditure as shown, fairly reflects the transactions that have taken place in the bank accounts of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc. during the financial year ended 31st July 2008.

W.R.Hoare C.P.A.
Auditor

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31st July 2008

Meeting Hall Account

Receipts		Expenditure	
Hire Fees	5275.00	City of Greater Bendigo	5585.60
Donations	1800.00	Transfer to Gen. A/c - cleaning	1098.00
Interest	28.51	Cleaning	1098.00
			7781.60
		Deficit	678.09
	$ 7103.51		$ 7103.51

Bank Balance at 1st August 2007		Bank Balance at 31st July 2008	
Cheque A/c	7117.60	Cheque A/c	6439.51
Deficit	678.09		
	$ 6439.51		$ 6439.51

I have examined the documents and records supporting the above statements of receipts and expenditure and I am able to report that in my opinion the statement of receipts and expenditure as shown, fairly reflects the transactions that have taken place in the bank accounts of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc. during the financial year ended 31st July 2008.

W.R.Hoare C.P.A
Auditor

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31st July 2008

Publication Account - Investment Account

Receipts			Expenditure	
Sales			Postage	16.95
Eucalypts	330.00		Transfer to General A/c	80.00
Birds	250.00			
Spiders	255.50			
Orchids	265.00			
Mixed Books	131.45			
Miscellaneous	120.00	1351.95		
Postage		2.45		96.95
Interest		2498.19	Surplus	3755.64
		$ 3852.59		$ 3852.59

Bank Balance at 1st August 2007		Bank Balance at 31st July 2008	
Cheque A/c	5435.66	Cheque A/c	9191.30
Term Deposit CBA	13000.00	Term Deposit CBA	13000.00
Term Deposit CBA	15818.84	Term Deposit CBA	15818.84
Term Deposit Bgo	6500.00	Term Deposit Bgo	6500.00
Surplus	3755.64		
	$ 44510.14		$ 44510.14

I have examined the documents and records supporting the above statements of receipts and expenditure and I am able to report that in my opinion the statement of receipts and expenditure as shown, fairly reflects the transactions that have taken place in the bank accounts of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc. during the financial year ended 31st July 2008.

W.R.Hoare C.P.A.
Auditor

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, October 8 **7.30pm**
Speaker: Paul Foley: 'Our first 50 years in space – some discoveries and achievements'. See page 3 for a summary of Paul's talk.

Wednesday, November 12 **7.30pm**
Jim Radford: 'Woodland birds and their habitat requirements'

Wednesday, December 10 **6.30pm**
Christmas break-up, shared dinner, bring some food to share. (BYO everything else)
Please Note – earlier starting time.
Speaker: Peter Ellis 'Folk Music'.

Excursions

Contact Richard Goonan if you have any comments, questions or suggestions for excursions (ph 0423418815).

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, October 22 **7.30pm**
Topic for discussion to be determined.

Regular Fauna Excursions

Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests

(Mount Alexander region) **Bushwalks 2008**
All walks are on Sundays. Meet 9.30 am outside 30 Templeton Street, Castlemaine (Continuing Ed.) and carpool to the start of the walk. Take water, morning tea and lunch. Non-members welcome. No cost. (Walks are cancelled on Total Fire Ban days). For more information ring Bronwyn Silver on5475 1089

19 October Sandon

Walk along Carr's creek gully lined with mature river red gums. A moderate climb through the forest with view towards Clunes at the site of an abandoned mine. Hopefully spring flowers on the way. 5-6 km. For more information ring Bob and Barb Harry 547 66293

The FJC Rogers Seminar is hosted this year by the APS and SGAP Victoria in Horsham (Horsham College Assembly Hall). The topic this year is **Eremophilas**
Date: 4th and 5th October, registration starts at 9am. More information is at
http://www.apsvic.org.au/fjcrogers.html
or by phoning 03 5381 0081
This Seminar is for enthusiasts of Australian plants, and all gardeners who want to have an attractive garden with low water use.

Ringwood Field Naturalists Club
SEANA campout Badgers Ck Healesville Oct 15-17 2008

Program – see September *Whirrakee* (page 4). Speaker at dinner Saturday 18 - Roger Elliot, author and botanist Cost: $65. Participants responsible for own accommodation.
As registration has closed, contact: Peter Rogers 98016946 (president) or Ray Wall (treasurer) 98011037 email Ringwoodfnc@hotmail.com

---